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AUTHOR	Travaline, Kathleen A.
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ABSTRACT

By encouraging, supporting, and nurturing a young child's development, parents can make their child's first learning experiences pleasant and fruitful. As the child's most important teacher, parents can help their children make a smooth transition from home to school. If parents trust their instincts, remain patient, and provide plenty of encouragement, they can make learning to read adventurous and fun. Research shows that the most important thing parents and caregivers can do to help their children succeed in school is to read aloud to them every day. Suggestions for exploring reading around the house include: keep reading materials in the house; tape label names on objects; show children how people use reading and writing in daily events; work on a home computer; point out signs, labels, and logos outside the home; and visit libraries, bookstores and newsstands. Suggestions for making reading a vital part of daily activities are: keep a library in the child's room; select a special reading place; and familiarize yourself with the book before reading it. Reading aloud to children, exploring books, and reading together are the most important gifts parents can give. (RS)

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Get Ready To Read! Tips for Parents of Young Children = Preparese a leer! Ideas para los padres de ninos que apenas comienzan a leer.

Kathleen A. Travaline

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Make reading a learning adventure

Being considered your child's first teacher of reading may sometimes seem overwhelming to many parents and caregivers. But remember, you have many advantages. Your young child naturally loves and trusts you, and (sometimes!) is an attentive audience that you can work with one-on-one. In many instances, you will be able to give your child individualized attention, even if you care for several children at the same time. Trust your instincts, be patient, and provide plenty of encouragement, and you can make learning to read adventurous and fun!

Be a reading role model. So, what is the key to helping your child become a reader? In one word—READING! Why? Because research shows that the most important thing parents and caregivers can do to help their children succeed in school is read aloud to them every day. Reading aloud to children also helps them

- expand their vocabulary
- appreciate the value of books and reading
- understand new ideas and concepts
- learn about the world around them

Explore reading with your child

The warmth and security of your home can provide many wonderful reading opportunities for your preschool child. Children are by nature inquisitive and curious and are always looking for something to occupy their busy minds. You do not need to spend a lot of money on fancy books or reading programs to start your child on the path of reading. Here are some suggestions for exploring reading:

- Keep books, magazines, and newspapers in your home to give your child constant exposure to reading possibilities.
- Tape label names on objects in your home—such as bed, doll, table, or chair. This can help your child begin to recognize letters and words.
- Help your child see how people use reading and writing through daily events such as reading a recipe while preparing a meal, reading aloud cards and letters, and writing lists or checks.
- Work on your home computer. This can show your child a variety of information in many different forms.
- Outside the home, point out signs, labels, and logos to your child. This can encourage early attempts at reading. Even the youngest child will quickly begin to identify familiar signs and places.
- Visit libraries, bookstores, newsstands, and other places where books and other reading materials are found. Ask for help in choosing books your child will like.

The time for books is ALL the time

Most importantly—read, read, read books to your child. Set aside some time every day to read to your child. Many parents choose to read before bedtime, but any time of day is a good time for reading. Here are some suggestions for making reading a vital part of your child's day:

- Keep a library in your child's room to teach him or her that books are an important part of your home environment. If possible, include colorful picture books, interactive books with exciting features, nursery rhymes and fairy tales, joke or riddle books, or homemade books.
- Select a special reading place like a rocking chair, a soft rug, or a comfortable couch to create a warm and inviting reading environment. Whenever possible, hold your child in your lap as you read. Let him or her hold the book and turn the pages.
- Familiarize yourself with the book before reading it. This will make you a better storyteller. You can make the reading experience special for your child by taking time to ask and answer questions, reading slowly and clearly, holding the book so your child can see the pictures and words, and making the story interesting with different character voices and sounds.

It does not matter where, how, or what you read to your child—the important thing is that you fit reading into your schedule every day. Even 15 minutes a day will go a long way to foster a lifelong love of reading.

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Get ready to read!

Reading is an activity that all parents and caregivers can help foster in children, building a foundation for future success in school and in life. Reading aloud to your young child, exploring books, and reading together are the most important gifts you can give. So get ready to read—and enjoy the adventure of learning!

Other brochures in this series include:

- *Explore the Playground of Books: Tips for Parents of Beginning Readers
- *Summer Reading Adventure! Tips for Parents of Young Readers
- *Making the Most of Television: Tips for Parents of Young Viewers
- *See the World on the Internet: Tips for Parents of Young Readers—and "Surfers"

*Also available in Spanish.

This brochure may be purchased from the International Reading Association in quantities of 100, prepaid only. (Please contact the Association for pricing information.) Single copies are free upon request by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Requests from outside the U.S. should include an envelope, but postage is not required.

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Brochure text written by Kathleen A. Travaline.

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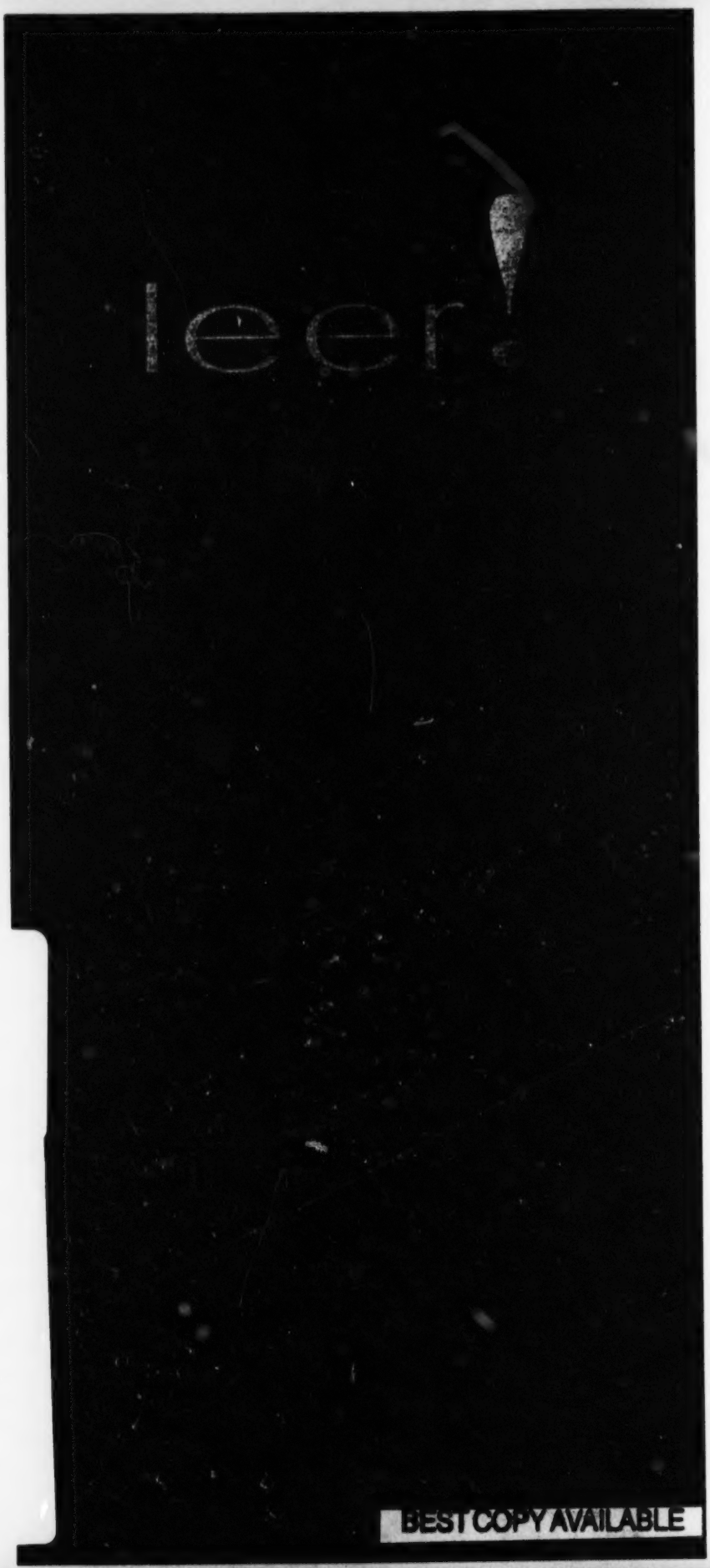
Reading Association
800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139
Newark, Delaware 19714-8139, USA
Phone: 302-731-1600
Fax: 302-731-1057
Web site: www.reading.org 1017 11/98



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Usted es el primer maestro de su niño

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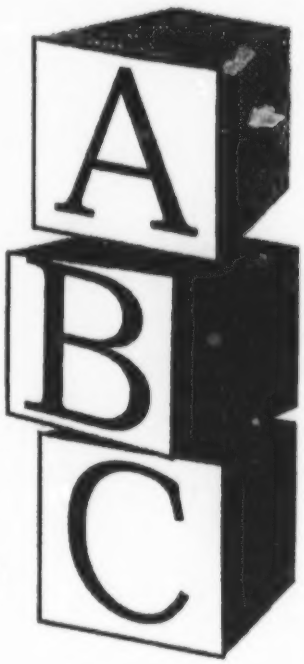
Haga de la lectura una aventura

Algunos padres y guardianes pueden sentirse algo abrumados por la responsabilidad de ser los primeros maestros de sus niños. Recuerde, usted tiene muchas ventajas. Por naturaleza, su niño le quiere y confía en usted y (a veces) le presta atención suficiente para poder trabajar uno a uno. A menudo le será posible atender a un niño a la vez aunque cuide de varios simultáneamente. Confie en su intuición, anímelo y así podrá hacer de la lectura una aventura divertida.



De un buen ejemplo... ¿Cuál es el secreto para lograr que su niño lea? En una sola palabra—LEER. ¿Por qué? Porque la mayoría de las investigaciones indican que los padres o guardianes deben leerle a sus niños en voz alta, a diario, para ayudarles a tener éxito en la escuela. La lectura en voz alta ayuda a los niños a:

- ampliar su vocabulario,
- apreciar los libros y la lectura,
- entender nuevas ideas y conceptos,
- aprender sobre el mundo que les rodea.

Explore la lectura con su niño

El calor y la seguridad de su hogar le ofrece al niño muchas oportunidades para leer. Los niños son curiosos por naturaleza y siempre andan buscando qué hacer para ocupar su mente. No es necesario gastar mucho dinero en libros finos ni en programas de lectura. A continuación le presentamos algunas sugerencias para explorar la lectura:

- Tenga siempre a mano revistas, diarios y libros para exponer al niño a la lectura.
- Ponga etiquetas con los nombres de los diferentes artículos de la casa sobre cada uno de ellos—por ejemplo, cama, muñeca, mesa o silla. Esto ayudará al niño a reconocer letras y palabras.
- Muéstrele cómo se usa la lectura a diario, bien sea leyendo una receta al cocinar, leyendo cartas o postales o escribiendo listas o cheques.
- Si tiene computador en casa, úselo y deje que el niño vea información en muchas formas distintas.
- Cuando salgan a pasear, señale letreros, etiquetas y logos. Esto puede fomentar la lectura temprana. Aún los niños más pequeños comenzarán a identificar letreros y lugares familiares.
- Visite las bibliotecas, librerías, kioscos de periódicos y otros lugares donde haya materiales para leer. Pida ayuda para escoger libros que sean del agrado de sus niños.

El momento de leer es CUALQUIER momento

Lo más importante es LEER LEER y LEER. Léale a sus niños a diario. Muchos padres escogen el momento antes de ir a la cama pero cualquier momento del día es ideal para leer. A continuación le damos algunas sugerencias para incluir la lectura en la vida diaria de sus niños:

- Mantenga una biblioteca en la habitación de los niños para enseñarles que los libros son parte importante del hogar. De ser posible, incluya libros con ilustraciones a color, libros interactivos con características especiales, cuentos de hadas, nanas, libros de chistes, rimas y juegos y hasta libros hechos en casa.
- Escoja un lugar especial para leer ya sea la mecedora, un tapete suave, un sofá o silla cómoda. Lo importante es que sea un lugar que invite a leer y a quedarse. Siempre que sea posible, siente al niño sobre su falda y deje que agarre el libro y pase las páginas.
- Lea el libro antes de leérselo al niño. Esto le permitirá leerlo aún mejor. Para hacer de la lectura una experiencia especial para su niño, haga y conteste preguntas mientras lee, lea despacio y claramente, deje que el niño vea las ilustraciones y palabras, y para hacerlo más interesante y divertido, cambie las voces de los personajes.

No importa donde se lee, lo importante es leer a diario. Aún sólo 15 minutos al día serán suficiente para fomentar un amor a la lectura que durará toda la vida.

Prepárese para leer

La lectura es una actividad que todo padre o guardián puede fomentar en los niños. Esto sentará las bases para el éxito futuro tanto en la escuela como en la vida. Leer en voz alta, explorar libros y leer juntos son los mejores regalos que puede darle a sus niños. Así que prepárese a leer y disfrute la aventura que es el aprender.

Otro folletos en éste serie incluyé:

* *Explore el mundo de los libros*
  Ideas para los padres de niños que apenas comienzan a leer

*Disponible en Inglés y Español

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Texto en Inglés de Kathleen A. Travaline.
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Reading Association
800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139
Newark, Delaware 19714-8139, USA
www.reading.org

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